

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS19771C1

This legislation will better protect Idaho's students and school districts from certificated school employees with a history of violating their professional code of ethics. Section 1 of the bill will prevent out-of-state teachers and school administrators who have negative conditions attached to their certificates, or who are under investigation for ethical violations against their state's professional code of conduct, from being issued a certificate to teach or administer schools in Idaho, until all conditions and investigations are cleared. Too often, Idaho is a "soft landing" for individuals who have ethical problems in other states, because Idaho's chief certification officer currently lacks the authority to deny an application for a certificate from such an individual.

Section 1 also includes a provision allowing the Idaho professional standards commission to recoup the cost of an appeal against any action taken against an individual's certificate, under certain circumstances.

Section 2 states that school districts may no longer enter into any agreement that has the effect of concealing negative information about job performance or misconduct. It further requires that new job applicants must allow a hiring school district to have access to any previous school district's records related to the employee's job performance or job-related conduct. These past school districts are then given immunity from liability for disclosing such information.

FISCAL NOTE

No fiscal impact to the General Fund. The appeal fee will recover the professional standards commission's actual cost of hearing and investigating any appeals in which the appeals panel upholds the original sanction, or imposes a greater sanction. The total amount that may be collected will depend on the number of appeals and the decisions of the appeals panel.

Contact:

Name: Representative Richard D. Jarvis

Office:

Phone: (208) 332-1000